



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2020

First Human West Nile Virus Infection Confirmed in Butte County

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – The Butte County Department of Public Health Department (BCPH) announces the first confirmed human West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in Butte County. As of July 24, 2020, 4 human WNV infections have been reported in California, not including the Butte County case. WNV is active July through October, with August typically being the peak month in Butte County. BCPH would like to remind residents to protect themselves from WNV by reducing mosquitoes on their property and preventing mosquito bites.

The infected person is over 65 years of age and is hospitalized with severe west Nile virus illness.

“Mosquitoes capable of transmitting West Nile Virus are here. I urge you to protect yourself and your family by wearing appropriate clothing, using effective repellents and avoiding exposure at dusk and dawn,” explained Danette York, Director of Butte County Public Health.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Residents can reduce the risk of infection by practicing the “Three Ds”:

1. DEET – Use a proven insect repellent like DEET. Other recommended repellents include: picaradin, lemon eucalyptus oil, para-menthane-diol, or IR3535. Always use according to label instructions. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
2. DAWN AND DUSK – Mosquitoes that transmit WNV bite in the early morning and evening. Wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
3. DRAIN – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate or drain all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. For standing water that cannot be drained such as fountains, ponds, etc., consider adding “Mosquito Dunks” or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae. Report unmaintained swimming pools to the local Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 342-7350 or (530) 533-6038.

People infected with WNV generally fall into three categories: no symptoms (8 out of 10 people) a fever illness with fatigue and body aches (1 in 5 people), or severe illness with nerve related symptoms such as encephalitis or meningitis (less than 1 in 150 people). For those who develop a severe WNV illness, symptoms may last several weeks and some symptoms may be permanent. People 50 years of age and older, and individuals with diabetes or hypertension, have a higher chance of getting sick and are more likely to develop complications

For more information about WNV, visit Butte County’s [West Nile Virus website](#)